

*Measure extends two provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act and one provision of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act until February 28, 2011*

February 25, 2010

**Washington, DC** – Today, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) voted for the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendments to HR 3961, which extends three sunset provisions from the USA PATRIOT Act and the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act for one year. The provisions were due to expire this week. They include:

- A “business records” provision that allows federal law enforcement authorities to seek a special court order for “any tangible thing” they deem related to a terrorism investigation;
- A “roving wiretap” authority that allows the government to get a special court order to surveil suspected terrorists, regardless of their locations or their modes of communication; and
- A “lone wolf” provision that allows law enforcement to seek special court warrants against suspected terrorists not connected to a group.

The reauthorization of these provisions passed the Senate yesterday by voice vote. According to the Obama Administration, these provisions provided our federal agents with the intelligence they needed to thwart the New York City subway bombing plot by Najibullah Zazi, who was trained by Al Qaeda in Pakistan.

“As a former Admiral, and the first Director of ‘Deep Blue,’ the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit, I have no higher priority than defending our nation. However, throughout my legislative career I have also continually strived to find the proper balance between civil liberties and our national security,” said the Congressman. “I remain disappointed that Congress could not complete work on a comprehensive reauthorization last year which would have provided necessary reforms to the Patriot Act, particularly with regard to the use of National Security Letters.

“In light of this inability to come to an agreement, Congress is compelled to react in an expedited manner because the clock has run out on these sunset provisions. I look forward to working with my colleagues over the next few months to implement the proper reforms that better protect our First and 14th Amendments while ensuring our security.”

Both the House and Senate had begun work on long-term renewals, but the bills contained major differences. Over the next year, both chambers will complete work on their bills and conference.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, the Congressman was the first Director of Deep Blue, the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the Global War on Terrorism. He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National*

*Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Congressman Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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